

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05
IO-13 /076 W

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R 201010Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1693
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRAGUE 3565

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT PFOR CZ
SUBJECT: RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS

REFS A. PRAGUE 3420 B) PRAGUE 2790 NOTAL

1. WE ASSUME ADDRESSEES ARE AWARE FROM WIRE SERVICE REPORTS AND
INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE OF DEC 11-12 THAT GOC IS SAID TO HAVE
RELEASED FOUR POLITICAL PRISONERS IMPRISONED IN 1972: MILAN
HUEBL, FORMER HEAD OF HIGHER PARTY SCHOOL; JIRI MULLER, POST-68
STUDENT DISSIDENT LEADER; JAROSLAV SABATA, BRIEFLY PARTY SECRETARY
IN BRNO IN 1968; AND ANTONIN RUSEK, SAID ALSO TO BE FORMER REGIONAL
PARTY OFFICIAL.

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2. REPORT ON RELEASE IN DEC 12-13 LE MONDE FROM ITS VIENNA
CORRESPONDENT APPEARS TO BE GENERALLY ACCURATE FROM LITTLE INFORMATIO
N
ON RELEASE AVAILABLE HERE. TALK ON DIPLOMATIC CIRCUIT HERE
ALSO CENTERS AROUND POSSIBILITY THAT RELEASE WAS MADE AS PEACEMAKING
GESTURE TOWARD ITALIAN AND FRENCH CPS OR THAT IT RESULTED FROM

INTERVENTION OF FRENCH CP DURING RECENT PARIS VISIT OF CPCZ
CC FOREIGN SECTION CHIEF ANTONIN VAVRUS (REF A).

3. RELEASE OF THESE FOUR HAS CAUSED SOME SPECULATION IN PRAGUE
THAT PLASTIC PEOPLE OF UNIVERSE, ROCK MUSIC GROUP CONVICTED
OF PUBLIC OBSCENITY AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOR IN SEPTEMBER (REF B),
MIGHT ALSO BE RELEASED BEFORE CHRISTMAS.

4. COMMENT: WE THINK PCF AND PCI INTEREST DOUBTLESS CONTRIBUTED
TO GOC DECISION ON RELEASE OF FOUR, BUT WE ASSUME THERE WAS
ALSO A STRONG FACTOR OF PREPARING FOR BELGRADE 77. RELEASE
OF POLITICAL PRISONERS WHOSE CASES HAVE BEEN WELL PUBLICIZED
REDUCES SIZE OF TARGET CZECHOSLOVAKIA WILL BE IN BELGRADE.

5. SO FAR NO INFORMATION HAS SURFACED HERE ABOUT CONDITIONS
WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN PLACED ON PRISONERS IN RETURN FOR THEIR
RELEASE, EXCEPT FOR STATEMENT IN LE MONDE ARTICLE THAT HUEBL
WAS RELEASED ON PROBATION. FROM WHAT WE HAVE HEARD FROM
DISSIDENT CIRCLES ABOUT CHARACTER OF AT LEAST ONE OF THEM, MULLER,
IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT HE WOULD ACCEPT A CONDITION EITHER OF
VOLUNTARY EXILE ABROAD OR OF RENOUNCING HIS CAMPAIGN TO GET GOC
AUTHORITIES TO OBSERVE THE LAW ON THE BOOKS IN HUMAN RIGHTS
FIELD THROUGH CONSTANT QUIET PRESSURE.
BYRNE

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